

Special message from the Governor :

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
AUSTIN, August 13, 1870.

Hon. DON CAMPBELL,

President of the Senate :

SIR : I return to your House, where it originated, "An Act to incorporate the Texas and Mexico Railway Company," and ask that the same be reconsidered.

There are several objections to this act which I will not more than refer to, as the pertinency thereof will be apparent, viz : first, it provides for relief from *all taxation* by towns, counties or other corporations for ten years. Second, it authorizes, *sweepingly*, that all "counties, incorporated towns, cities or corporations of any kind within the State of Texas," may subscribe to its stock, and may issue bonds therefor. Third : It authorizes an almost unlimited number of *branches*.

But there is a further objection that I think as good as the best. In the message which I had the honor to send to the Legislature at the opening of the session, I remarked, in connection with the matter of grants of charters for internal improvements, that, "where parties present themselves asking for no special or exclusive privileges, they should, where evidence is shown that they will be able in good faith to comply with their promises, receive from you the appropriate encouragement; but that even a simple charter should not be granted without this evidence, is made apparent by the vast number of schemes of the sort that have never progressed further than to encumber our statute books, and obstruct the ground to other more responsible companies."

This remark may well apply to the present charter. There are some names of good citizens included among the corporators, but they have not been consulted at all, and do not know of the arrangement; or, if consulted, have neither the means nor the inclination to engage in so extensive an enterprise. The purpose of the real

parties to the scheme is evidently to procure the charter for sale. I am sure that the Legislature will join me in repelling that class of schemers. Franchises of this importance should not pass into the hands of persons who are likely to peddle them as merchandise.

Respectfully,

EDMMND J. DAVIS,
Governor.